

# Montana Traffic Education and Training

## Module 15 Worksheet: Share the Road

Student Worksheet Discussion Key  
Video Activity One and Two

**Montana law requires motorists to operate their vehicles in a careful and prudent manner without endangering the life, limb, property or other rights of people entitled to use the highways. MCA 61-8-302**

You will be watching a series of videos and viewing some pictures of different ways people use the highway transportation system (HTS). Your job is to list and describe the users of the HTS, identify their **unique characteristics**, and then **develop strategies** to safely share the road with them.

When considering unique characteristics think about size, speed, vulnerability, predictability, susceptibility to wind and weather, visibility, and where you might typically find them.

**For the teacher:** These are just suggestions and can be subtracted or added to as you work through the lesson with the students. You may also want to handle this as homework since this can become tedious and time consuming and the learner might tire of it part way through. You could also present this as a split group activity where one team identifies unique characteristics and shares them with the class and the other comes up with strategies to share the road. Finally, you may want to do several as a class and then have the students complete this over a couple of days as they ride with their parents or family members and make observations during their trips back and forth.

Be creative and engaging with the students so they get to the end result that the only way to effectively share the road is to see the other users, identify the unique characteristics of each user and what they need to do to share the road. Then do it.

HTS User and Modes of Transportation	User Unique Characteristics	Strategies for Sharing the Road
Pedestrians, Skateboarders, Wheelchairs	<p><b>Size and Visibility:</b> Small and will blend in with surroundings. Can easily hide behind LOS</p> <p><b>Speed:</b> Low speed 5-10 MPH</p> <p><b>Protection:</b> Very Vulnerable</p> <p><b>Predictability:</b> Very</p>	<p>Assume they don't see you</p> <p>Expect they are will step out where ever and whenever</p> <p>Expect they won't follow the rules</p> <p>Create space by changing lane positions</p>

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	<p>Unpredictable <b>Where Found:</b> any place, anytime</p> <p><b>Operating space:</b> Can operate in small places and be easily missed</p>	<p>Adjust speed to avoid conflict especially in areas such as school zones and pedestrian crosswalks</p>
Bicyclists	<p><b>Size and Visibility:</b> Small and will blend in with surroundings. Can easily hide behind LOS. Often times <b>will not</b> be wearing reflective material and lights at night.</p> <p><b>Speed:</b> Slow speed to 25-30 MPH</p> <p><b>Maneuverability:</b> Highly maneuverable and can move in and out of spaces quickly</p> <p><b>Protection:</b> Very Vulnerable</p> <p><b>Predictability:</b> Very Unpredictable</p> <p><b>Where Found:</b> any place, anytime</p> <p><b>Operating space:</b> Can operate in small places and be easily missed</p>	<p>Often don't have mirrors so are unaware of your approach</p> <p>See bicyclist in your right front or front zone</p> <p>Wind gusts may cause riders to veer into or across traffic lanes</p> <p>Create space by moving to LP 2</p> <p>Slow down, wait and time your passing so you have space between the cyclist and on-coming traffic.</p> <p>Expect that some riders may not obey stop signs and other traffic control devices</p>
Motorcycles	<p><b>Size and visibility:</b> Small to medium and can be easily missed when turning and pulling out in traffic</p> <p><b>Speed of maneuvering:</b> Fast to very fast</p> <p><b>Protection:</b> Limited to helmet and outerwear (sometimes lacking on both accounts)</p> <p><b>Predictability:</b> Can be found weaving in and out of traffic, but</p>	<p>Use effective scanning techniques when turning left or pulling out into traffic. Extra scanning is recommended to ensure that you do not miss the rider.</p> <p>Create space when passing motorcycles in opposite lanes to account for wind and road conditions.</p> <p>Create Time: Slow down when</p>

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	<p>usually follow the rules of the road</p> <p><b>Operating space:</b> Small but increases with speed and windy conditions</p>	<p>approaching a stopped and slowing motorcyclist</p> <p>Communicate your intentions for turns and lane changes to give motorcyclist information</p>
ATVs and Snowmobiles	<p><b>Size and visibility:</b> Small to medium and can be easily missed rural areas in winter for snowmobiles, summer and fall for ATVs. Can be hidden by surrounding bushes and vehicles</p> <p><b>Speed of maneuvering:</b> Fast to very fast</p> <p><b>Protection:</b> Limited to helmet and outerwear (sometimes lacking on both accounts)</p> <p><b>Predictability:</b> Can appear suddenly crossing roads and sometimes will cross without looking</p> <p><b>Operating space:</b> Small but increases with speed. Also increases with windy conditions</p>	<p>Effective searching will help you see these users with your fringe and peripheral vision. Be aware of when and where you might see them.</p> <p>Create space by moving to different lane positions when you see them.</p> <p>Reduce speed in areas you anticipate ATVs and snowmobiles and when approaching on near or on the side of the road slow down to pass.</p>
Passenger Cars, Mini-vans Pickups	<p><b>Size and visibility:</b> Differs from Smart Cars to 1 ton Pickups. From low riding sports cars to trucks with a lift kit installed.</p> <p><b>Speed of maneuvering:</b> varies between cars but consistently between 0 and 85-90 MPH.</p> <p><b>Protection:</b> Surrounded by metal and airbags used in conjunction with safety belts provide excellent protection</p> <p><b>Predictability:</b> varies depending on the type of vehicle and traffic situations.</p>	<p>Create space by changing lane position to more open space.</p> <p>Create time by increasing following distance and slowing sooner as you approach a stop.</p> <p>The faster you go the more space you need to maneuver, to stop and to avoid problems.</p> <p>If the vehicle is larger change your lane position so you can see around the vehicle and increase your following distance.</p> <p>At intersections be aware that</p>

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	<p><b>Operating space:</b> Increases with size and speed of the vehicle</p>	<p>vehicles don't always obey control devices so scan intersections before entering.</p>
<p>Recreational Vehicles</p> <p>Vehicles with Trailers</p>	<p><b>Size and visibility:</b> Can be seen easily but may trailer may be hidden behind a vehicle and you may come into conflict with it if it turns in front of you.</p> <p><b>Speed of maneuvering:</b> Takes longer for turns and to cross intersections.</p> <p><b>Protection:</b> Similar to passenger cars and pick ups.</p> <p><b>Predictability:</b> Similar to other large vehicles</p> <p><b>Operating space:</b> Usually larger than a passenger car or pick up. Wider turns, bigger blind spots,</p>	<p>Anticipate that turns and crossing intersections will take longer so slow down sooner</p> <p>Pass RVs and trailers on the left where they expect you to be</p> <p>Look for mirrors on tow vehicle or motor home so you know they can see you.</p> <p>Stay out of the NO-Zone for these vehicles</p>
Snow Plows	<p><b>Size and visibility:</b> May be obscured during heavy snow fall. Can usually be seen because of flashing yellow lights.</p> <p><b>Speed of maneuvering:</b> Operates at lower speeds and is pretty predictable in how and where they go.</p> <p><b>Operating space:</b> Wider than most vehicles because of the wing blades used to plow shoulders and the snow they push to the side of the road.</p>	<p>Give more space by increasing following distance.</p> <p>Do not pass on the right.</p> <p>Watch for lights and indicators that they are plowing.</p> <p>Take advantage of bare road they create and follow at a safe distance</p>
Box Trucks, Buses, semi-Trucks	<p><b>Size and visibility:</b> Very visible</p> <p><b>Speed of maneuvering:</b> Takes time to cross and intersection or complete a turn.</p>	

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	<p><b>Predictability:</b> Very predictable because they are constrained to particular lanes on the road.</p> <p><b>Wind:</b> Susceptible to wind and may be blown over into your lane. May also create wind shadows which may cause you to be blown around as you pass them in opposite directions.</p> <p><b>Operating space:</b> Largest of all vehicles. It is increased by the time it takes to complete maneuvers and by the differences in speed</p>	
Emergency Vehicles	<p><b>Size and visibility:</b> Passenger size to fire trucks and when using lights and siren visibility is increased. Can be problems at intersections where you may have an LOS blockage.</p> <p><b>Speed of maneuvering:</b> Ambulances and fire trucks 10MPH over speed limit. Police fast to very fast.</p> <p><b>Protection:</b> When assisting others they are often focused on the task and not fully aware of traffic. Can be very vulnerable.</p> <p><b>Predictability:</b> Operators are trained to pass on the left.</p> <p><b>Operating space:</b> Increases with size of the vehicle</p>	<p>Understand and apply the move over laws for Montana.</p> <p>When assisting on the road side, change lanes away from the emergency vehicle. If no lane is available to change into, move to LP 2 and slow down.</p> <p>If being approached from behind or ahead pull over and stop. Wait until they have passed, signal your intentions to re-enter traffic, check your blind-spot and enter traffic when safe.</p>
Farm Equipment	<p><b>Size and visibility:</b> Often big and easy to see. Will often have a "slow moving vehicle" sign on the back. They do create a huge LOS for people trying to get around them and often block</p>	<p>Biggest issue for you and the farm equipment operator is passing.</p> <p>Pass in areas that have wider spots in the road.</p>

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	<p>views of on-coming traffic.</p> <p><b>Speed of maneuvering:</b> Slow. Takes time to complete a turn or change position on the roadway.</p> <p><b>Predictability:</b> Since farm equipment speed is usually slower and more cumbersome the operator will usually be very predictable. However, they may turn across traffic without notice because some lack turn signals.</p> <p><b>Operating space:</b> Farm equipment requires a large space to travel down the road and will cross lanes to complete a turn.</p>	<p>Pass when you have good line of sight to avoid conflicts with on-coming traffic.</p> <p>Watch for indicators they may be turning before you pass. They could turn into your path.</p> <p>Give them plenty of room when passing and returning to your lane.</p>
Construction Zones	<p><b>Size and visibility:</b> Vehicles are usually large and easy to see. They do have large blind areas and at times not be able to see you.</p> <p>Workers will wear reflective high visibility vests but</p> <p><b>Speed of maneuvering:</b> Can be slow moving and cumbersome. Workers outside the equipment</p> <p><b>Protection:</b> Roadside workers are very vulnerable to injury because they have only a hard hat and steel toed boots.</p> <p><b>Predictability:</b> Trucks may enter roadways in different locations so may become unpredictable.</p> <p><b>Operating space:</b> Vehicles need lots of space because of wide turning radiuses,</p>	<p>Slow down to posted construction speed.</p> <p>Obey the signs posted in the construction areas.</p> <p>Watch for equipment and workers.</p> <p>Create space by moving to lane positions away from obstacles.</p>